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EXHIBITION OF WAR  
PORTRAITS

THE exhibition of portraits of distinguished leaders of the American and allied nations, painted for the National Art Committee at the time of the Peace Conference and later, for presentation to the National Portrait Gallery at Washington, opens in Gallery D 6 on the afternoon of January 17 from two to five o'clock, with a private view for members of the Museum and various other persons especially interested in art. The Exhibition will be open to the general public the following morning and will remain on view through February 11.

The National Art Committee was the outgrowth of a strong feeling on the part of several lovers of American art that the Peace Conference should not be allowed to pass without some important pictorial record of the personalities that were playing so important a public part in this critical moment of the world's history. They conceived the idea that a worthy record could best be made for America by sending to Europe some of the most eminent portrait painters of this country to paint for them portraits of the outstanding figures of the American and allied nations at the Peace Conference. The National Art Committee was accordingly formed with Henry White as Chairman and the following membership: Mrs. W. H. Crocker, Robert W. de Forest, Mrs. E. H. Harriman, Arthur W. Meeker, Herbert L. Pratt, J. Pierpont Morgan, Charles P. Taft, Charles D. Walcott, Abram Garfield, and Henry C. Frick (deceased). It is through its efforts that this highly interesting group of portraits became possible. The most appropriate permanent home for the pictures was next successfully provided for and the foundation of a National Portrait Gallery laid when Charles D. Walcott of the Smithsonian Institution approved the committee's project for permanently housing this historic group of pictures in the museum in Washington, D. C., of which he is the head.

It was the Hon. Henry White, chairman of the committee, who finally made possible the carrying on of the actual painting of the

portraits by arranging for the sittings. Among the most interesting pictures of the exhibition is the Signing of the Peace Treaty by John C. Johansen, which shows the signers grouped about a table in the great Hall of Mirrors in the palace at Versailles. The Exhibition includes twenty portraits; portraits in which one sees records of national types so diverse and distinct as to bring up afresh in the beholder's mind the principle of nationality which occupied so much of the attention of the conference. Charles S. Hopkinson portrays Prince Saionji, the venerable Japanese statesman, slight of frame, imperturbable, almost untouched by time, in powerful contrast to the rugged frames and virile Slavonic heads of the Balkan negotiators, Premier Bratiano and General Pashitch. To Cecilia Beaux fell three highly interesting commissions, the thoroughly British figure of Admiral Lord Beatty, the stately form of the venerable Cardinal Mercier, and the extraordinary head of the matchless negotiator, Premier Clemenceau.

In addition to his picture of the Signing of the Treaty, Johansen gives us portraits of the Italian delegates, Premier Orlando and General Diaz, large canvases with symbolic backgrounds, and dated in Rome, as well as the British General, Field-Marshal Haig and Marshal Joffre, beloved of Americans. By Edmund C. Tarbell is a striking equestrian portrait of Marshal Foch, and portraits of General Leman, Herbert Hoover, and President Wilson. A member of the "big four" fell to the lot of Douglas Volk also, who sends interesting portraits of Premier Lloyd George, General Pershing, and Albert, King of the Belgians. The group is rounded out by Joseph de Camp's portraits of Sir Robert Borden and General Currie, and a portrait of Admiral Sims by Irving R. Wiles.

Not included in the Exhibition at the Museum are portraits by M. Jean McLane of Premier Venizelos, Premier Hughes of Australia, and Elizabeth, Queen of the Belgians. These on completion will be added to the collection, which the American Federation of Arts is arranging to exhibit in several cities throughout the country.

H. B. W.

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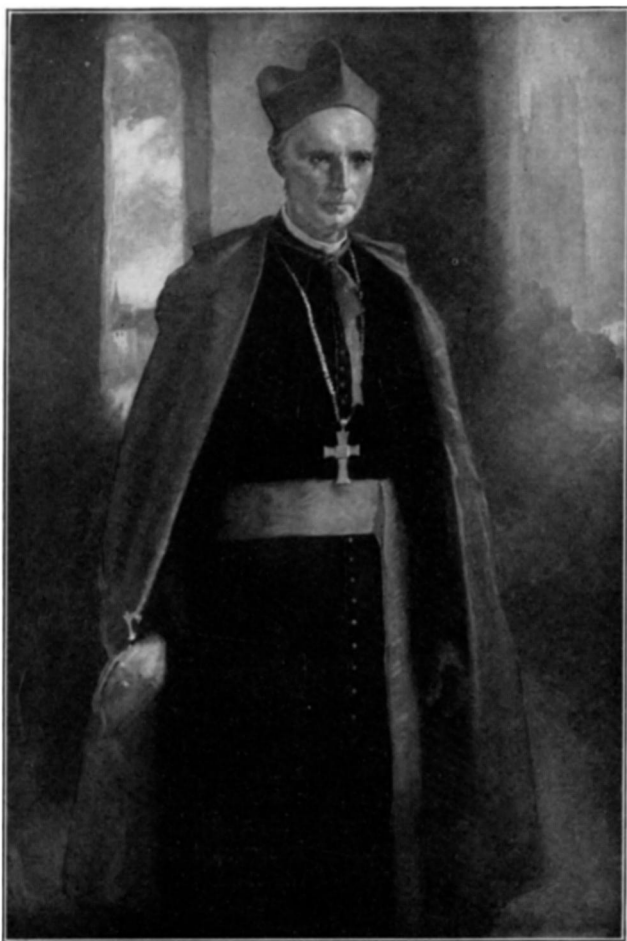
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PORTRAIT OF CARDINAL MERCIER BY CECILIA BEAUX  
IN THE EXHIBITION OF WAR PORTRAITS